

Letters of Commendation and Appreciation

The following members and units have been the subject of numerous letters of commendation and thanks from public correspondence received in the Office of the Fire/EMS Chief for the months of November and December 2005. Chief Adrian Thompson sends a thank you to all members listed for their dedication to service and the community.

November 2005

DFC Michael Willis, TA
Captain William Flint, Safety Office
Lt. Gerald Carroll, T-17
Lt. Graydon Dupree, E-18
Lt. Zane Gray, E-14
Lt. Duane Hughley, E-7
Lt. Jimmy Seavy, Sr., E-17
Sgt. Richard Copeland, T-7
St. Alonzo Fleming, E-7
FF Sir Anderson, E-18
FF Joseph Brunner, T-17
FF Dustin Butler, E-14
FF Michael Deams, E-17
FF Sean Gilligan, E-8
FF John Haggerty, T-17
FF Chris Holmes, Rapid Response 3

FF Michael Jackson, T-17
FF Eric Jones, E-8
FF Shantae Lanier, E-1
FF Roswanda Mason, E-14
FF Daniel Myers E-18

FF James Pennington, T-2
FF Dion Robinson, T-13
FF Colin St. Clair, Rapid Response 1
FF Christopher Therres, E-18
FF Guy Valentine, E-14
FF Mike White, E-9
FF Scott Wilson, T-3
Paramedic James Follin, Medic 30
Paramedic Eunice Jones, Rapid Response 2
EMT-A Taye Gale, Rapid Response 2
EMT-A Juanita Hammond, Amb. 23
Engine 14
Ms. Kathryn Friedman, PIO

December 2005

Captain Ronald Gill, E-29
Lt. David Hibbin, E-29
EMS Sgt. Vincent Frazier, TA
Sgt. Phillip Proctor, FPD,FIU

FF Timothy Barnes, T-5
FF Antonio Best, T-8
FF Ronald Bobo, RS-3-2
FF James Carrol, RS-3-2
FF Reginald Chandler, T-9
FF James Edelen, RS-3-2
FF Lee Haven, RS-3-2
FF Frank Isoda, E-11
FF Roderick Mitchell, T-5
FF Sid Polish, T-5
FF Gregory Smith, E-31
FF Gary Steen, RS-3-2
FF Charles Williams, RS-3-2
Paramedic Timothy Campbell, Medic 9
Paramedic Kimberly Leland, Medic 9
Paramedic Worthel Salmon, Medic 1



BEACON

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DC Firefighters Burn Foundation with DC Fire officials present a \$12,550 check to pay for the renovation of the Out-Patient Clinic at Washington Hospital Center's Burn Center. From left to right are AFCS Smith, AFCS FitzGerald, Fire/EMS Chief Thompson, Captain Crosswhite, Firefighter Griest, Firefighter Woods, Dr. Jordan, Dr. Jang and Dr. Light.

EMS Response Times at Historic Best

Paramedics in DC are arriving more quickly and are getting seriously injured and ill patients to the hospital faster than at any other time in the city's history, according to just released statistics.

For the month of January 2006, 85.4% of critical medical calls received Advanced Life Support (ALS) resources within eight minutes or less, and in December 2005, 83% received ALS resources within eight minutes or less. This was the best recorded performance on this measure in the history of the Department and is evidence of the continued success of the Department's strategic plan for improving the availability of ALS resources in the District of Columbia. Over the past three years (December 2002 to January 2006), the

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Adrian H. Thompson, Fire/EMS Chief
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

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DC FEMS 4-1-1 ...

Please e-mail your births, deaths, retirements, marriages or other personal news to share to gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov. Submissions are requested no later than the third Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

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Contact us at (202) 673-3331 or fax (202) 673-3188

Response Times (cont'd)

Department's performance on this measure has improved by 23%.

For Critical medical calls during January 2006, the average time for first arrival of fire apparatus (staffed by a minimum of EMTs) was 4:05, measured from dispatch-to-scene. The average response time for first arrival of paramedics was 5:41. The average response time for first arrival of a transport unit was 6:19 minutes.

"I'm very proud of the men and women who have worked so hard to realize this success," said Chief Thompson, who notes the agency's goal is to achieve an ALS response time of under eight minutes at least 90% of the time, a national standard established by several groups interested in emergency medical services. "We have some work to do,"



Thank you to all who contributed new unwrapped toys for the Department's third year collecting toys for the US Marine Corp Reserves Toys for Tots Program. A special thank you to those listed who delivered several thousand toys to Children's Hospital on December 21, 2005. AFC-S William Fitzgerald, Lt. Sean Egan, Donald Simpson, Beskin Hiligh, Kimberly Mathis, Charles Rayford, John Slavik, Michael Allen, Jim Soderberg, Ericera Dixon, Cliffy Hall, Jason Woods, Engines 4 and 17, Truck 4, and Tower 3.

said Chief Thompson. "I'm confident our continued work will translate to even more impressive response times."

The agency plans to add three more paramedic engine companies (PECs) this spring, bringing to 11 the total number of first response engine companies capable of delivering ALS within five minutes of dispatch.

Firefighter/EMT Entry Level Exam

The DC Fire/EMS Department announces the next Firefighter/EMT Entry Level Exam to be held on May 20, 2006. Applications became available February 6, and representatives from the Fire& EMS Department and the DC Office of Personnel will accept completed applications on March 25, 2006 ONLY at nine locations in the District. The first 1,500 qualified applicants will be invited to take the Firefighter/EMT Entry Level Exam. For more information including application submission locations, minimum requirements, date and times, call the DC Fire/EMS Recruiting Officer at (202) 673-3330 or visit <http://fems.dc.gov> and click on "2006 Firefighter/EMT Entry Level Exam." Copies of the official informational brochure can be downloaded from the website.

51st Annual DC One Fund Campaign

The 51st Annual District of Columbia One Fund Campaign began in January and runs through March 31, 2006. The One Fund is the District government's only official charitable fundraiser. With this year's theme "Making a Difference, One by One," DC government employees pledge their support to not-for-profit, charitable organizations in the Greater Washington area.

Fire/EMS department representatives are William Wright, 202. 673.3677 — william.wright@dc.gov and Clothida Onyegbule, 202.673.3678 — Clothida.onyegbule@dc.gov. This year's campaign goal is \$1.2 million in contributions District wide. Fire/EMS has a \$90,000 contribution goal. The campaign administers are the United Black Fund of Greater Washington, DC and the United Way of the National Capital Area. The Chair of the DC One Fund Campaign this year is Ms. Carol Mitten, Director of the DC Office of Property Management and Fire/EMS Chief Adrian H. Thompson is Vice-Chair.

As of March 3, Fire/EMS employees have contributed \$25,600.

FEMS Intranet Site — fems.in.dc.gov

Need information on the firefighter work schedules, Credit Union, facility locations, vacancy announcements? All that



Fire/EMS was among hundreds of exhibitors at the NBC4 Health and Fitness Expo, January 14 and 15 at the Washington Convention Center. An engine, an ambulance, CPR certification, the 911 simulator, and information on Fire and EMS Safety were on display.



This fire in the 200 block of Van Buren St., NW, March 4th caused considerable damage to a two-story family home. An alert neighbor saw smoke coming from the roof and alerted the elderly occupant, who got out safely. The blaze began in the attic, the result of an electrical short and spread to the roof. Two firefighters received minor injuries. Damage was placed at \$250,000.

and more is available on the Fire/EMS intranet website. To access, please visit the intranet site at: FEMS.in.dc.gov.

Coming In FY 2006 from MIS

- Inventory Control database and on line supply ordering
- Mobile Data Terminal for on line 151s
- Fire Hydrant Survey on line web form
- Windows XP upgrade n all workstations
- Online compliance database
- Scan to network feature enabled on all new Xerox equipment
- All old computer equipment removed from all sites

Did you know: you can call in Xerox service on any Xerox

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Coming from MIS (cont'd)

equipment directly? The number can be found on the intranet (fems.in.dc.gov), and you can also order all supplies (except paper and staples) for your machine. The cost for all service calls and supplies is included in our monthly contract and is no additional cost.

Arson Arrest

Members of the DC Fire Investigation Unit arrested a man in early January who was suspected of setting a fire last November that resulted in a two-alarm blaze, which caused thousands of dollars in damage.

The fire broke out November 29 in the 1900 block of Monroe Street, NE. The fire started in the rear porch area of one rowhouse and quickly spread to the adjoining

home. No civilian injuries were reported, but one firefighter was hospitalized with what were called minor injuries.

After conducting countless hours of interviews, fire investigators developed a suspect, 39-year-old Marcus Hutchinson, a homeless man who had been harassing the owner of the house where in the fire started, according to the homeowner. Investigators located Hutchinson and employed surveillance techniques. On January 3, investigators followed Hutchison into a Northwest drug store, where he was viewed shoplifting several items. He was taken into custody, and, after an interview, admitted setting the November 29 fire.

The FIU has realized significant successes recently. In fiscal year 2005, the FIU closed more than 32% of arson cases investigated. That's a nearly 20% increase in the previous year and is significantly above the national average - currently about 15%.

The FIU was recently honored by the US Department of Justice for its accomplishments and for its leadership role in solving the serial arson case that involved several jurisdictions.

Kudos

Congratulations to James A. Brown, Maintenance Engineer in the Facilities Maintenance Division who was inducted into the United States Flag and Tough League (USFTL) National Hall of Fame on January 14, 2006. The ceremony was held in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Brown was one of 12 inductees.

His induction into the Hall of Fame was for coaching. His coaching career spans 14 years and he has 23 years as a player. He received a ring and plaque.

National Health Information Privacy and Security Week – April 10-16, 2005

This annual event is sponsored by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) to raise awareness among healthcare professionals, employers, and the public of the importance of protecting the privacy, confidentiality, and security of personal health information. This year's theme is "Respecting Patient Privacy, Building Public Trust."

This agency applauds your efforts in complying with the mandates of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) over the past year. For more information contact Tisa B. Smith, Information and Privacy Officer at (202) 673-3320.

WMD Training

In 2005, 103 Fire/EMS personnel completed comprehensive Weapons of Mass Destruction training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama. Since 2001, 665 Fire/EMS personnel have completed this training. More employees of DC Fire & EMS have completed this training than the combined total of trained personnel in most states.

New Apparatus at Fire/EMS

Fire/EMS' Special Operations Division received the new

Fireboat 2, a 33-foot Metalcraft power boat, on March 1. This boat will replace the 25-foot Boston Whaler and will go into service after some additional outfitting and training are complete. It is powered by twin diesel motors and can reach a top speed of 42 MPH. The \$464,000 vessel was paid for entirely with funds secured through Department of Homeland Security grants.



New Canteen and Rehab Units

Fire/EMS brand new canteen and rehab units were formally dedicated during a ceremony at Engine 3's quarters on December 20, 2005.

Members of the Friendship Fire Association (FFA), which staffs the units, were joined by DC fire officials, the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, representatives of IAFF Local 36, and members of other

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Engne 23's crew helped NBC 4 with a segment of "Wednesday's Child" March 6th. The program helps foster children find adoptive parents. Ten-year-old Devita wants to work as an EMT, paramedic or possibly an emergency room doctor when she grows up. Lt. Derrick Waller showed Devita and NEWS-4 anchor Barbara Harrison all the equipment on the ambulance, including the AED.

New Canteen (cont'd)

canteen organizations from the region for the event. Chief Thompson traded in his formal dress cap for a Santa hat while presenting these holiday gifts to the Association. The state-of-the-art vehicles were purchased by Fire/EMS, with priority planning and design by an FFA committee.



In remarks to the audience, Deputy Mayor Reiskin thanked FFA

for their service for the community, and pointed out the Association does its work with little fanfare, in a city where egos often reign.

The event included certificates of appreciation for key players from both Fire/EMS and FFA who were involved in the design process.



Deputy Fire Chief John Thumann ended 28 years of service with a retirement dinner last month at Engine 2. Pictured left to right are: Chief Thompson, DFC Thumann, Sgt. Reggie Newby, A/DFC Larry Schultz, AFC-O Doug Smith, A/BFC Scott Kane.

Afterwards, guests shared holiday refreshments and tours of the new units and the Friendship Fire Association Museum, located on the third floor of Engine 3. For more information about on the new vehicles, visit the Association's website: www.friendshipfire.org.

New Units in EMS

Medic 26 and Ambulance 16 have new transport units. These were made by the Horton Corporation and show off the new color scheme for Fire/EMS transport units. EMS 16, EMS 2 and EMS 3 are using their new response vehicles, Chevy Tahoes. Also on order are 29 transport units, 11 engines and two trucks.



DCFEMS 4-1-1

Death Notices

The department regrets the passing of the following retired members: Retired Firefighter John T. Hyland, who passed away on November 17, 2005; Retired Firefighter John Reese, who passed away on December 22, 2005; Retired Firefighter Charles B. Lewis who passed away on December 24, 2005; Retired Firefighter Donald H. Ricker who passed away on January 16, 2006, Retired Lieutenant Joseph J. Thompson, who passed away on January 29, 2006, Retired BFC Joseph A. Krahling who passed away on January 31, 2006, Retired BFC George B. Capps, who passed away on February 9, 2006, and DFC William M. King who passed away on March 2, 2006.



Congratulations to Deputy Fire Chief Kenneth Watts who retired on December 10 after 36 years of service. DFC Kenneth Watts poses with members of Truck 6.

Firefighters Battle Blaze at Dupont Rowhouse

On February 7 at 1013 hours, this rapidly moving fire quickly consumed this end-of-the row house located at 1821 15th Street, NW.

First arriving firefighters found fire issuing from the basement. An aggressive interior attack evolved into heavy duty exterior operations due to the volume of fire and the possibly of collapse inside this three-story residential building.

There was an initial report of a person trapped inside, but upon completion of a comprehensive search, no one was found. After ladder and wagon pipe operations for approximately 40 minutes, the fire was brought under control with no injuries and no extension. Damage was

extensive. The lone occupant of the building was not home at the time, and the cause is under investigation.

